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GENERAL SURVEY

Of that Part of the
ISLAND of St. *Christophers*,

Which formerly belonged to *France*; and
was yielded up to *Great Britain* for
ever, by the late Treaty of *Utrecht*:

TOGETHER WITH

An Estimate of the Value of those Lands, and
a PROPOSAL and SCHEME for
raising a very considerable Sum of Money, for
the Use of the Publick, on the Produce
thereof, &c.

In a Letter to M. R. Esq; a Member of the
Honourable House of Commons.

By Mr. R. M. S. B.

*Phryges non nisi iēti sapiunt.
Prestat fero quam nunquam.*

L O N D O N,

Printed: And Sold by J. ROBERTS, in *War-*
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[Price One Shilling.]

GENERAL SURVEY

Of that Part of the

Island of St. Christopher,

even, by the late Treaty of Utrecht; was yielded up to Great Britain; and which formerly belonged to France; and

TOGETHER WITH

THE
BRITISH
MUSEUM

In a letter to Mr. D. L. ...
... of ...

12.11.14.15.16

1880

M. O. A. 15. 0. 1

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GENERAL SURVEY

Of that Part of the
ISLAND of *St. Christophers,*

Which formerly belonged to *France, &c.*

In a Letter to M. R. Esq;

SIR,



INDING, by the printed Votes, that your Honourable House have lately resolved to re-assume the Consideration of the present State of that Part of the Island of *St. Christophers,* (commonly called the *French Quarters,* or *French Lands*) yielded up by *France* to
Great

Great Britain, by the Treaty of *Utrecht*, to the end, as I am told, Effectual Measures may be taken that these Lands be now disposed of, to the best Advantage, for the Use of the Publick; pursuant to some former Orders and Resolutions of your House, for that Purpose, in or about the Month of *June* 1717: And in regard I happened to have an Opportunity of knowing, or at least guessing shrewdly at, the most probable Reasons why they were not then, nor have ever since been disposed of accordingly; I humbly apprehend it may not be unacceptable to a Gentleman of your Penetration and Experience in Parliamentary Disquisitions, and who, for the space of full Forty Years together, have distinguished your Self, in the Great Council of the Nation, by giving your Suffrage, upon all proper Occasions, for whatever you thought to be most for the Interest of your Country, at the Time; without Respect to either this, that, or t'other Person or Party; I humbly apprehend (I say) it may not be unacceptable to You, if I, who have had the Honour of being known to You, for many Years past, take the Liberty, upon this Occasion, to offer to your Consideration a short Account of some Remarkable Incidents that have occur'd to my

Ob-

Observation, together with a Proposal I made above Four Years since, in relation to the Sale and Disposal of these Lands above-mentioned: And really the Knowledge I have had of your Candor and Ingenuity, upon former Occasions many Years since, has induced me the more readily to adventure upon exposing and submitting now my Sentiments touching the Premises, to your Impartial Censure and Discretion; to the End that, in case you happen (upon Perusal of this Letter) to find any thing suggested therein worthy of being Communicated to your Honourable House, You may previously have the same put in such a proper Dress, suited to the different Circumstances of Time and Things, as in your Prudence you'll think fit to Direct.

I must own, I was always of Opinion, That the Cession of these Lands by *France* to *Great Britain*, was none of the least considerable Articles in the said Treaty of *Utrecht*; because, as I had casually an occasion to see the Beautiful and Commodious Situation of those Lands, so I was then, and upon several Occasions since, very credibly informed, there was not in all the *British* Plantations in *America* such another Tract of Ground, capable

ble of Producing a greater Quantity of fine Sugars (if indeed near so much) Acre for Acre, as the best and most Plantable Part of the said late *French Lands*; besides that their being intermixt with the two *English Quarters* of the said Island, makes every Part of the whole capable of being rendred incomparably more Useful and Beneficial to the next adjacent Islands, and to *Great Britain* too, than the same could possibly have been, in case any Part thereof had still remained under the Dominion of any Foreign Power.

The Consideration of all which has (I confess) made it the Subject of my Admiration, that, in the space of Eight Years Time, no Effectual Measures have hitherto been taken, for Rendring that Island (which is so every way capable of being so made) more beneficial both to the particular Inhabitants thereof, and to *Great Britain*, of Course, than it can Possibly ever be, upon the precarious Footing it has hitherto stood upon.

I know several Attempts have been made by some, to have obtained or procured Grants of these Lands, upon the Merit of their pretended extraordinary Services; Others upon Account of their Real or Pretended Sufferings; and by a
Third

Third sort, to have Purchased them at Moderate Rates; and, for Form's Sake, their respective Petitions and Proposals were, as an Act of course, referr'd to the Lords Commissioners for Trade and Plantations, who likewise reported their Opinions thereupon: But as their Power seem'd to be pretty much limited, and the Subject-matter too Sweet a Morfel to be parted with, on Slender Term, those several Proposers gave over all Hopes of succeeding in their Pretensions that way.

And therefore, I happening to be, in or about the Year 1716, somewhat concern'd with, and for some Considerable Merchants and Factors of the City of *London*, who had Commissions from several of their Correspondents in the *West-Indies*, for Purchasing the said Lands for Valuable Consideration, We entered into Terms with some Court Dependents, who pretended they had such a considerable Interest at Court, that they could not well fail in procuring what we desired, in case the King could safely grant the same.

But being told some few Days after, that, by a certain late Act of Parliament, limiting the Crown as to Grants, *the King could only give Leases of these Lands for*

a Term of Years only ; I immediately Drew, and gave in, certain REASONS or Arguments in Writing, to satisfie all Parties concerned, That the King might lawfully have granted the absolute Property of these Lands, or any Part thereof, for ever, to any Person or Persons whom His Majesty should in His Royal Wisdom think fit.

How far I might then have been in the Right or Wrong, by so doing, I will not now say ; But be that as it will, I give you Ingenuously hereunto subjoined an Exact Copy of those Reasons or Arguments which I there suggested for the aforesaid End.

REA-

REASONS humbly shewing
 that the King may very Law-
 fully, by Letters-Patent, un-
 der the Great Seal of Great
 Britain (if His Majesty so think
 fit) dispose of all or any part
 of the late French Lands in
 St. Christophers, without the
 Advice or Consent of either
 House of Parliament.

First, All the Kings of *England* (at least
 since *William* the Conqueror's Time) and
 the Kings of *Scotland* (time out of Mind)
 have severally been in the constant use
 of giving not only Leases, but also abso-
 lute Grants, for ever, of Crown Lands
 (when they so thought fit) to their Fa-
 vourites and others who had distinguish-
 ed themselves by their Services to their
 Respective Sovereigns; and that, with-
 out the least Advice, Consent, or In-
 tervention of the Parliament of either
 Kingdom, Reserving only some Trifling
 Yearly Quit-Rents (when demanded) as
 an Acknowledgment of their Allegi-
 ance and Subjection, &c. Infomuch
 that the Generality of the most antient
 B 2 and

‘ and considerable Families in either King-
 ‘ dom owe their Estates Originally to the
 ‘ Royal Bounty.

‘ *Secondly*, Ever since the Union of the
 ‘ two Crowns, in the Person of King *James*
 ‘ the VIth of *Scotland*, and Iſt of *England*,
 ‘ His Majesty and Royal Successors have
 ‘ exerciſed the like Power in *Great Bri-*
 ‘ *tain and Ireland*.

‘ *Thirdly*, Even ſince the Revolution, his
 ‘ late Majesty King *William* exerciſed alſo
 ‘ the like Power, in the ſame Manner as
 ‘ his Royal Predeceſſors did; Witneſs
 ‘ (for Example) the large Poſſeſſions of
 ‘ the Preſent Duke of *Portland*, &c. And
 ‘ tho’ it may be objected, That the Par-
 ‘ liament of *Great Britain* reſumed King
 ‘ *William*’s Grants of the Forfeited Eſtates
 ‘ in *Ireland*; yet that proceeded only up-
 ‘ on the previous Conceſſion and Aſſu-
 ‘ rance that His Majesty gave the Parlia-
 ‘ ment, before the Reduction of *Ireland*,
 ‘ that (after the Reduction thereof) the
 ‘ Produce of the Rebels Eſtates ſhould
 ‘ be apply’d for defraying the Charge of
 ‘ the War.

‘ *Fourthly*, How far ſoever His Pre-
 ‘ ſent Majesty (as King of *Great Britain*)
 ‘ may

' may possibly be limited, or tyed up,
 ' by some late Acts of Parliament, from
 ' disposing of Crown Lands in *England*,
 ' *Scotland*, or *Ireland*, without the Con-
 ' currence of both Houses of Parliament,
 ' otherwise than by Lease, for a certain
 ' Term of Years; yet His Majesty (as
 ' Lord of *Jamaica*, *Barbadoes*, *St. Chri-*
 ' *stophers*, and other Islands in the *West-*
 ' *Indies*) may absolutely dispose of any
 ' Lands in those Parts, not already dis-
 ' posed of, to such Person or Persons,
 ' and in such manner, as His Majesty
 ' shall, in His Royal Wisdom, think fit:
 ' For,

' *Fifthly*, As few or no Acts whatsoe-
 ' ver of the Parliament of *Great Britain*
 ' are of Force, in any of His Majesty's
 ' Dominions, Colonies, or Plantations, in
 ' the *West Indies*; unless such Domini-
 ' ons, Colonies, or Plantations be parti-
 ' cularly therein mentioned; (they being
 ' all governed by Special Instructions giv-
 ' en or sent by His Majesty, from time
 ' to time, to the several Governors or
 ' Commanders in chief of these respec-
 ' tive Colonies, and by Laws made pur-
 ' suant thereunto, by the Governor,
 ' Council and Assembly of each Colony
 ' respectively, as Occasion offers) so it is
 ' humbly

‘ humbly presumed no Instance can be
 ‘ given that the Parliament of *England*
 ‘ or *Scotland* separately, before (or of
 ‘ *Great Britain* since) the Union, have
 ‘ interfered with the Sovereign, touch-
 ‘ ing the disposal of any Lands in either
 ‘ of those Plantations in the *West Indies*,
 ‘ ever to this Day.

‘ *Sixthly*, It is to be observed, that as
 ‘ the late Treaty at *Utrecht* was not be-
 ‘ tween the People, but the Respective
 ‘ Sovereigns of the several Kingdoms of
 ‘ *Great Britain* and *France*, &c. so the
 ‘ aforesaid late *French* Lands in His Ma-
 ‘ jesty’s Island of *St. Christophers*, were
 ‘ not yielded up by the late *French* King,
 ‘ to the People, but to the *Crown* of
 ‘ *Great Britain*: Nor is it to be suppo-
 ‘ sed that that Part of the Island of *St.*
 ‘ *Christophers* should be upon a Foot
 ‘ and Constitution quite different from
 ‘ the other part thereof, or from the Te-
 ‘ nure of all His Majesty’s other Domini-
 ‘ ons in the *West Indies*.

‘ *Seventhly*, It is further observable,
 ‘ that, though the whole Island of *Ja-*
 ‘ *maica* was forcibly taken from the *Spa-*
 ‘ *niards*, by the Subjects of *Great Britain*,
 ‘ in or about the Year 1655, during the
 Usur-

‘ Usurpation of *Oliver Cromwell*, &c.
 ‘ and the Exile of the *Royal Family*: Yet
 ‘ nevertheless, as after the Restoration of
 ‘ King *Charles II*, that Island was, by a
 ‘ solemn Treaty, yielded up for ever to
 ‘ the Crown (and not to the People) of
 ‘ *Great Britain*; so no Instance can be
 ‘ given that the Representatives of the
 ‘ People in Parliament have ever to
 ‘ this Day interfered with the Sovereign
 ‘ for the Time being, in the absolute Dis-
 ‘ posal of all, or any Part of the Lands
 ‘ hitherto disposed of, in *Jamaica* afore-
 ‘ said; which are all generally by Grants
 ‘ under the Great Seal of that Island, to
 ‘ the Respective Patentees, their Heirs
 ‘ and Assigns, for ever; Pursuant to such
 ‘ special Instructions as the several Gover-
 ‘ nors and Commanders in Chief, for the
 ‘ Time being, received, from Time to
 ‘ Time, from their respective Sovereigns,
 ‘ for that End.

‘ By all which Premisses it manifest-
 ‘ ly appears that the absolute Dis-
 ‘ posal of the late French Lands
 ‘ in *St. Christophers*, is, by pa-
 ‘ rity of Reason, vested in the
 ‘ Crown of *Great Britain* only, and
 ‘ consequently may be disposed of
 ‘ by His Majesty at Pleasure.

All

All who had then Occasion to peruse these Reasons, own'd that they were truly very strong and convincing to them; yet the Answer we got, at last, was, that we came too late; for, that the King (as they were informed) had promised the Grant of these Lands to a certain Favourite before; and therefore, if we had a mind to make any further Application about them, they believed our best way would probably be to make our Addresses to some of the *Grands*.

Whereupon, happening to be, soon after, recommended to a Considerable Person of that Nation, he seem'd to be in so great a hurry, at the Time, that he refer'd us immediately to another of the same Nation likewise, in *Park-Place*, who he said would receive our Proposals, and confer with us upon the Subject-matter thereof.

When we waited upon that Gentleman, in *Park-Place*, he seem'd to be very well apprized of our Errand, even before he saw us: But then he was so highly exalted with the Notion of getting Hundreds of thousands of Pounds, as an adequate Price, for a Grant of these *French* Lands abovementioned (which he made no Scruple of obtaining, provided we had come to his Price) that we quickly left him, as we found him, seemingly very full
of

of himself, as well as of the Business he was intrusted to manage.

The Truth is, our Inclinations led us, all along, to have compassed our Ends (if possible) in the most natural course, through the Interest of the *British* Ministry only: and, in order thereunto, we fell in, soon after, with a Gentleman, who, to our own Knowledge, could not well miss of having had a considerable Interest with one of the then Principal Secretaries of State, and with others too, upon his Account: However, to do him Justice, that Gentleman was always very shy in telling us where his chief Interest lay: Yet, he ingenuously confess'd to us, at last, that, without the ~~G~~ Interest, he had no great hopes of succeeding; and that he had therefore made Application accordingly.

But after he had kept us in a continued Expectation, from time to time, for three or four Months together, we found our selves, by the Means of some secret Power or other, baffled in all the Proposals we had made, about purchasing those Lands, or any Part thereof, for any such Sum as we were limited to offer; even though the Money appropriated for that end lay ready in very responsible Citizens Hands, for the space of twelve Months, and upwards.

C

And

And while we were thus kept in Suspence, you know, the Honourable House of Commons were pleased, upon the Occasion of a Petition on behalf of the Sufferers at the Islands of *Nevis* and *St. Christophers*, to come to several Resolutions, in relation to the aforesaid Lands; and, at last, on or about the 21st of June 1717, came to this Resolution, *That those Lands yielded up by France as aforesaid, should be sold to the best Advantage; and that the Produce of the same should be applied to the Use of the Publick:* or in Words to that effect.

Whereupon a Whim came into my Head, some time after, to turn Projector (forsooth) once in the Course of my Life; and happening to drop some Hint of my Design to a certain Gentleman of my long Acquaintance; he was so far from discouraging me therein, that he immediately run out into so very large Encomiums on the many excellent Qualities of a certain Noble Lord, than of the Ministry (whom he named as a fit Person to be applied to, on that Occasion) that I forthwith wrote his Lordship a Letter, whereof I now give you the following exact Copy.

My

My LORD,

‘ **T**HOUGH I have not the Honour
 ‘ of being known to your Lord-
 ‘ ship, yet I hope the Speciality of the
 ‘ Occasion, and the Candor of my Design
 ‘ in proposing hereby that which I hum-
 ‘ bly conceive to be for the Service of
 ‘ His Majesty, and the general Interest of
 ‘ the Publick, may, in some measure, plead
 ‘ my Excuse, for the Liberty I presume
 ‘ to take, in Addressing thus a Person of
 ‘ your Lordship’s high Quality and Cha-
 ‘ racter, with so much freedom, upon a
 ‘ Subject that seems to be already almost
 ‘ predetermined.

‘ But having had Occasion to know
 ‘ pretty much of the Nature, Constituti-
 ‘ on, present State, and Circumstances of
 ‘ the *British Plantations in America* (par-
 ‘ ticularly, *Jamaica, Barbadoes*, and the
 ‘ *Leeward Caribbee Islands*) as also the
 ‘ alternative Influence that Improvements
 ‘ or Discouragements in the Trade of, to,
 ‘ and from those Parts must needs have
 ‘ upon the general Circle of the other
 ‘ Branches of the Foreign Trade of *Great*
 ‘ *Britain*, and having consider’d the Pub-
 ‘ lick Invitation lately given to all Persons
 ‘ whatsoever, who have a mind to be Pur-
 ‘ chasers of all or any Part of those Lands
 ‘ in *St. Christophers*, which were yielded
 ‘ up to the Crown of *Great Britain*, by

' the late Treaty of Peace, to give in
 ' their respective Proposals accordingly,
 ' before or upon the 24th Currant; and
 ' likewise the Consequences that may
 ' most probably attend the disposing
 ' of these Lands, to the highest Bidders,
 ' without any Limitations (as the Adver-
 ' tisements published touching the same
 ' seem to insinuate) I humbly take the
 ' Liberty to offer to your Lordship's
 ' Consideration these few following Ob-
 ' servations, which have occurred to me,
 ' in relation to the Premises.

' As it is unquestionably allowed that
 ' the *British Plantations in America* are a
 ' very considerable Accession to the Do-
 ' minion, Power, Greatness, Trade, Navi-
 ' gation and Riches of this Kingdom, so it
 ' is equally certain, that, in the Case of an
 ' unforeseen Rupture, with either *France*
 ' or *Spain*, the Settling, Planting, Culti-
 ' vating, Improving, Peopling, and Forti-
 ' fying of the aforesaid late *French Lands*
 ' in *St. Christophers*, would not only be a
 ' very great Addition to the Strength, Se-
 ' curity, Interest and Advantage of the
 ' other Part of that Island, in particular,
 ' and of His Majesty's other Neighbour-
 ' ing *Leeward-Caribbee-Islands*, in gene-
 ' ral, but would likewise, of course, in
 ' very few Years time, increase His Ma-
 ' jesty's Revenue of the Customs, by at
 ' least 50000 *l. per Annum*, which makes
 ' it

' it indeed a Matter of Admiration to such
 ' as know and consider the Importance
 ' thereof, how it should come to pass that
 ' the taking proper Measures for that end,
 ' has been hitherto so long Neglected, ever
 ' since these Lands were Vested in the
 ' Crown, by the late Treaty at *Utrecht*;
 ' and so much the more too, when it is
 ' considered, that, (with all due Submissi-
 ' on to the Judgment of my Superiors)
 ' His Majesty might, at any time, as I
 ' humbly Apprehend, for the Particular
 ' * REASONS herewith inclosed, have
 ' very Lawfully disposed of all, or any
 ' Part of, these Lands, to any Person or
 ' Persons, and under such Conditions and
 ' Limitations, as his Majesty, in His Roy-
 ' al Wisdom, should think fit, without the
 ' Intervention, Advice, or Consent of ei-
 ' ther House of Parliament; and it is ve-
 ' ry demonstrable that, by the letting of
 ' these Lands lye Waste, all this time, His
 ' Majesty's Revenue of the Customs here
 ' has already suffered egregiously, and been
 ' hitherto very considerably less than what
 ' otherways the same might have amount-
 ' ed to, these three or four Years last
 ' past, beside the Duty of $4\frac{1}{2}$ per Cent.
 ' payable in the Island it self.

' However it ought (with Submission)
 ' to be considered, that tho' the Absolute

* A Copy of the foregoing Reasons was sent with this
 Letter.

‘ Property of these Lands be Vested in the
 ‘ Crown, yet the Profits and Revenues
 ‘ thereof do never arise from the Proper-
 ‘ ty only, nor from the bare Value they
 ‘ may Yield, by a Publick Sale thereof,
 ‘ but from the Improvements which may
 ‘ be made of these Lands, by Men’s La-
 ‘ bour and Industry ; and no Person or
 ‘ Persons whatever will so readily improve
 ‘ any Crown-Lands here, and much less
 ‘ in the *West-Indies*, to the best Advan-
 ‘ tage, either for the Crown or themselves,
 ‘ upon any precarious holding, as People
 ‘ will do, when the same is Ascertained
 ‘ to them and their Heirs, as their own
 ‘ fixt Property, for ever: And it is for that
 ‘ very Reason, (*viz.* to encourage the
 ‘ Planter’s Industry) that there is no other
 ‘ sort of Tenure in any one of all His Ma-
 ‘ jesty’s Islands in the *West-Indies*, than
 ‘ that of a Fee-simple only.

‘ From all these Considerations I hum-
 ‘ bly presume to infer, that the Prime Va-
 ‘ lue or Price to be had for Grants of these
 ‘ Lands (a thing seldom, if ever before,
 ‘ heard of in those Parts) ought not to be
 ‘ near so much regarded or looked into,
 ‘ as the Qualities, Characters, Circumstan-
 ‘ ces and Capacities of the Purchasers or
 ‘ Grantees: For,

‘ Some Ignorant Persons may possibly,
 ‘ from an over fond Opinion they may
 ‘ have conceived, of the Value of those
 ‘ Lands

' Lands, bid more for a greater or less
 ' Quantity thereof, than any Person who
 ' knows and truly considers the subse-
 ' quent Charges and dangerous Accidents
 ' attending Settlements in those Parts
 ' (such as Earthquakes, Hurricanes, Tur-
 ' nadoes, Distempers epidemick to that
 ' Climate, Depredations, &c.) will rea-
 ' dily Adventure upon: And the failure of
 ' such Persons in their Undertaking, would
 ' consequentially be a Loss to the Crown.

' Some others again who are Masters
 ' of Money, may be apt enough to lay
 ' hold of such an Opportunity, and bid
 ' very high for these Lands, either in
 ' whole or in part; though not with any
 ' design to Settle and Improve the Island,
 ' but to make a private Jobb thereof, by
 ' exacting extravagant Prices from such
 ' Persons whose Circumstances may per-
 ' haps render it absolutely necessary for
 ' them to purchase their present precari-
 ' ous Possessions, even at any Rate (tho'
 ' perhaps at double the Intrinsick Value)
 ' rather than be forced to part with their
 ' Negroes, and other Necessaries, which
 ' otherwise would become almost useless
 ' to them.

' There is a third sort of People who,
 ' from a vain desire of being thought very
 ' knowing and considerable in Negotiations
 ' of that kind, and finding themselves dis-
 ' ap-

appointed of such Premiums and Broke-
 ridge, as they proposed to get for their
 pretended Interests behind the Curtains,
 and their Endeavours to Obtain private
 Grants for others, seem now to have an
 invidious Design of inflaming the Reck-
 oning, by over-rating these Lands in all
 Companies where they happen to be; as
 hoping thereby to confound People's
 Thoughts and Judgments about them,
 and consequently to obstruct the Dispo-
 sal and Settlement of them now; to the
 End, that, by the Protraction of Time,
 they may yet have further Opportunity
 of Fishing in troubled Waters.

One sett of Men more I would hum-
 bly recommend to be carefully taken
 Notice of; and those are some pretend-
 ed * *French Refugees*, who (as pretended

* I have heard it often asserted that, of this same sort of heterogeneous
 Saints, too many, who probably thinking it convenient to fly their Country,
 for more Reasons than one, took shelter here in England, and shared pro-
 miscuously of the Royal Bounty, and other publick Clarities, in common
 with others of the same Nation who were really Sufferers on account of
 their Religion: Nor do I want reason to suspect at least (if not positively a-
 verr) that there are, even at this time, too many such Masqueraders in Re-
 ligion still entertained (if not preferred) among us; while many of our own
 much more deserving Natives are, for want of due Encouragement and Em-
 ployment, put to hard shifts to get Bread. However, this I am very sure
 of, That, of the French Refugee Regiments sent over from hence, in the
 Year 1689, for the Reduction of Ireland, five or six have been trussed up in
 a Morning, on a Triple Tree, at Dundalk, with their Crucifixes and other
 Popish Trinkets (which were found upon them) hung about their Necks,
 in terrorem, as Deserters to the Irish Army, with their Cloaths and
 Arms, &c.

' Suf-

' Sufferers for their Religion) lay Claim to
 ' several Thousand Acres of the aforesaid
 ' Lands, as their pretended former Pos-
 ' sessions: Whereas the Truth is, many
 ' such there were, who (during the late
 ' War) put themselves sometimes under
 ' the Protection of the *English*, and some-
 ' times under that of the *French* Go-
 ' vernment; were sometimes *Protestants*,
 ' and sometimes *Papists*; changing al-
 ' ways their Religion, or rather the Pro-
 ' fession thereof, from time to time, as
 ' they found the same suit best with, and
 ' most conducive to, their respective Inte-
 ' rests, for the time. Therefore I hum-
 ' bly apprehend the Titles and Merit of
 ' all such Pretenders, and of all who Claim
 ' under any of them, should be carefully
 ' looked into, and examined.

' Thus the various and different Ac-
 ' counts given, by the several Pretenders
 ' above-mentioned, of the alledged Num-
 ' bers of plantable and unplantable Acres
 ' of these Lands now in the King's Gift, and
 ' of the present State and Condition thereof,
 ' render it next to impossible, especially for
 ' any Person or Persons who have not been
 ' lately upon the Place, to make any Pro-
 ' posal for purchasing the said Lands ei-
 ' ther in Whole or in Parcels, but what
 ' may be objected against, as not being
 ' Adequate to the supposed the alledged

D

' Quan-

‘ Quantity, Quality, and Value thereof;
 ‘ for, as neither the exact Quantity nor
 ‘ Quality of these Lands seems to be
 ‘ as yet agreed upon, nor the Good di-
 ‘ stinguished from the Bad, nor any manner
 ‘ of Limitations or Conditions of Sale pre-
 ‘ fixed; every Proposer is left to bewil-
 ‘ der himself indefinitely in his own Imagi-
 ‘ nations; without any particular Rule or
 ‘ Condition whatsoever, to govern him-
 ‘ self by, in his Bidding.

‘ For Remedy whereof, and for the Ad-
 ‘ vancement of the Interest of the Crown,
 ‘ and the Encouragement of the Purcha-
 ‘ sers of these Lands, it is humbly propo-
 ‘ sed, That certain Conditions and Limi-
 ‘ tations, to which all Purchasers are to be
 ‘ subjected, may be previously concerted
 ‘ and published, and that such Persons as
 ‘ shall then incline to become Purchasers,
 ‘ on these Terms, may give in their Pro-
 ‘ posals accordingly; for the facilitating
 ‘ whereof, I humbly presume to Offer to
 ‘ your Lordship’s Consideration, That it
 ‘ may be previously declared in the Con-
 ‘ ditions of Sale, 1. That the Salt Pans
 ‘ shall be in common to all the Inhabitants
 ‘ of the Island. 2. That the $4\frac{1}{2}$ per Cent.
 ‘ arising from the Produce of these late
 ‘ *French Lands*, shall, for the space of
 ‘ Years, to be reckoned from *Lady-Day*
 ‘ next, be wholly appropriated (accord-
 ‘ ing

' ing to the first Institution and Impositi-
 ' on of that Tax) for the fortifying of that
 ' Part of the Island, by the Direction of
 ' the Governour, Council and Assembly,
 ' for the time being. 3. That these late
 ' *French Lands* be divided into distinct
 ' Parishes, to the end the Inhabitants may
 ' be the more regularly governed, upon all
 ' Occasions, and duly represented in the
 ' Assembly, and consequently subjected to
 ' all the Laws made, or to be made, by
 ' the Governour, Council and Assembly,
 ' in common with the Present Inhabitants
 ' of that Island. 4. That every Purcha-
 ' ser or Proprietor of any part of these
 ' Lands shall, in 18 Months time, to be
 ' reckoned from *Lady-Day* next to come,
 ' be obliged to have and maintain at least
 ' one White Man-Servant, able to bear
 ' Arms, for every 40 Acres thereof, and
 ' one White Man-Servant more in six
 ' Months after, so as to have always, from
 ' that time forward (That is, in two Years
 ' time, to be reckoned from *Lady-Day*
 ' next) one White Man-Servant for every
 ' 20 Acres of Land, in his or her Possessi-
 ' on. 5. That, for the better Peopling
 ' and Planting of these Lands, no Person
 ' whatsoever shall be allowed to have or
 ' hold more than 300 or 500 Acres thereof
 ' at most, in his or her Possession, after the
 ' Expiration of two Years, to be computed
 D 2 from

' from *Lady-Day* next to come. 6. That
 ' the present Possessors of any Parcels of
 ' these Lands, by Vertue of Temporary
 ' Grants, (or any Person or Persons ap-
 ' pearing for them respectively, and becom-
 ' ing Purchasers, on the Terms to be A-
 ' greed upon, for their Use) shall have a
 ' Preference, as to their present Possessi-
 ' ons, not exceeding 300 Acres each, as
 ' aforesaid. 7. That there be only an
 ' Ear of Corn reserved to be paid (when
 ' required) as a yearly Quitt Rent to the
 ' Crown, out of every distinct Plantation
 ' of these Lands, and no more. 8. That
 ' the Lands remaining now Waste and Un-
 ' planted shall be sold at *per Acre*,
 ' less than the Lands already cultivated
 ' and possessed by Vertue of Temporary
 ' Grants, from the several Governours as
 ' aforesaid. 9. That the Purchasers of all,
 ' or any Part of, these Lands, and all the
 ' White Men-Servants to be entertained
 ' and employed by them, be Protestants, or
 ' reputed such; together with such further
 ' Conditions and Limitations as the Go-
 ' vernment shall think fit. All which is
 ' with the utmost Deference and Regard
 ' most humbly submitted to Your Lord-
 ' ship's better Judgment by,

My LORD,

London, 20th

Aug. 1717.

Your Lordship's most Obedient,
and most Humble Servant.

POST-

P O S T S C R I P T.

My LORD,

SINCE I propose no particular Interest to my self, by the Contents of the foregoing Letter, (being neither a Planter nor intended to be a Purchaser of any Part of these Lands, in any event) I hope I may be indulged the Liberty of not subscribing my Name; especially since I have not the Vanity to think that the Authority thereof would, in the least, add to the Weight of these Considerations above hinted at, any farther than the Reasonableness thereof may carry Self-Evidence and Conviction along with them: But thus far I can assure your Lordship, that the want of some such Previous Conditions of Sale does really hinder some People of my Acquaintance, from Bidding for these Lands; least their Offer (how reasonable soever) might possibly be made Use of only as a Shoeing-Horn for others.

But in Case His Majesty and the Ministry be determin'd to make the most of these Lands, in all Events, I can, in few Hours time, prepare such a Rational Scheme as (if approv'd of) cannot probably fail of raising about a Million, or at least 500000 *l. Sterling* to the Government, in some few Months time, out of these

French

' *French* Lands only. And as the follow-
 ' ing of that Scheme may be managed so
 ' as not to interfere with the Interest even
 ' of the Planters of *St. Christophers*, or any
 ' other of its Neighbouring Islands, so I am
 ' confident no Material Objection can be
 ' offer'd against it, but only one seeming
 ' Nicety, which I am very certain your
 ' Lordship can easily solve.

To the Right Honourable
My Lord—

IT would favour too much of Vanity
 and Self-conceit, should I trouble you
 with a recital of all that happen'd, upon
 the Occasion of this Letter: But, in short,
 my Friend assured me that the Noble
 Lord to whom it was address'd, was pleas-
 ed to say, upon his having perus'd the
 same, that he was extremely well pleased
 with it; and therefore desir'd to know,
 and speak with, the Author thereof, who-
 ever he was: But as I knew my self to be
 very deficient in several Qualifications
 which I apprehended were necessary for
 a Courtier, I humbly desired to be ex-
 cused; as chusing rather to Act behind
 the Curtain, and that my Friend, who
 had a pretty good Interest with his Lord-
 ship, should make the best of my Propo-
 sal, and share the Benefit thereof with me,
 in

in case he could make any thing of it. And, for that end, I immediately gave him my Proposal and Scheme; whereof a true Copy is hereunto subjoin'd.

‘ *A PROPOSAL and SCHEME*
 ‘ *for raising, in some few Months time,*
 ‘ *a Million, or at least 500000 l. Ster-*
 ‘ *ling, by the Produce of that part of*
 ‘ *the Island of St. Christophers, which*
 ‘ *was lately yielded up by France to*
 ‘ *the Crown of Great Britain, by the*
 ‘ *Treaty of Utrecht; as also particu-*
 ‘ *lar Answers to all the Objections*
 ‘ *that can possibly be suggested against*
 ‘ *the Reasonableness thereof.*

‘ WITH all due Regard and Submission
 ‘ to the Wisdom of my Superiors, I lay it
 ‘ down, as a certain Position, That the
 ‘ King might, at any time, since His Ma-
 ‘ jesty’s happy Accession to the Crown,
 ‘ have disposed of all or any Part of these
 ‘ late *French Lands* in *St. Christophers*, to
 ‘ any Person or Persons, and in such man-
 ‘ ner as His Majesty should, in his Royal
 ‘ Wisdom, have thought fit, without the
 ‘ Advice or Consent of either House of
 ‘ Parliament.

‘ However, the King happening (it
 ‘ seems) not to have been duly informed
 ‘ or apprized thereof, and the Honoura-
 ‘ ble House of Commons having, in the
 ‘ mean

‘ mean time, interposed so far as to pass
 ‘ a Vote, on the 21st of June last, *That*
 ‘ *these Lands should be sold to the best Ad-*
 ‘ *vantage, and that the Produce of the same*
 ‘ *should be applied to the Use of the Pub-*
 ‘ *lick; And His Majesty having since ac-*
 ‘ *quiesced so far with that Vote, as to give*
 ‘ *Directions lately to the Lords Commis-*
 ‘ *sioners of His Majesty’s Treasury, to dis-*
 ‘ *pose of all the Lands and Hereditaments*
 ‘ *yielded to the Crown of GREAT BRI-*
 ‘ *TAIN, in the Island of St. CHRISTO-*
 ‘ *PHERS, by the said late Treaty, for the*
 ‘ *most that can be made thereof, for the Be-*
 ‘ *nefit of the Publick; I humbly apprehend*
 ‘ *it may very naturally be inferred from*
 ‘ *the Premises, that both the King and*
 ‘ *Parliament agree in this, That since there*
 ‘ *seems to be a Necessity as yet to raise*
 ‘ *Money, from time to time, for the Use of*
 ‘ *the Publick, they are willing it should be*
 ‘ *raised in such manner as may be thought*
 ‘ *least Burthensom to the Landed Men,*
 ‘ *and others here, who have hitherto born*
 ‘ *most of the Burthen of the late War. But*
 ‘ *no Method having hitherto been pro-*
 ‘ *posed, by which any Sum exceeding 40*
 ‘ *or 50 thousand Pounds or thereabouts,*
 ‘ *can probably be raised, by the Produce of*
 ‘ *these Lands, so as to answer sudden Emer-*
 ‘ *gencies, or the present casual Occasions*
 ‘ *of the Government, I humbly make the*
 ‘ *Proposal following.*

‘ That

' 1^o. That all the said Lands be forthwith
 ' sold at a moderate Rate, to such capable
 ' Person or Persons, of fair Characters and
 ' unquestionable Credit, as will undertake
 ' that at least 10000 Acres of the best part
 ' of these Lands (including what is already
 ' planted thereof) shall be duly planted
 ' with Sugar-Canes, before the Day of
 ' which shall be in the Year of our Lord
 ' 1719, at the farthest; and that such far-
 ' ther part of these Lands as is plantable with
 ' Sugar-Canes, and found capable of produ-
 ' cing good Sugars, be planted some time
 ' before the Expiration of one whole Year,
 ' to be reckoned from and after the said Day.

' 2^o. That, for the Purchasers Encou-
 ' ragement to give an Adequate Price for
 ' these Lands, and the better to enable him
 ' or them to have the same completely plant-
 ' ed, within the Time above limited, the
 ' Price agreed upon shall not be payable
 ' before the Day of which shall
 ' happen to be in the Year of our Lord 1718,
 ' and that the whole Value be, in the mean
 ' time, appropriated, by Act of Parliament,
 ' for the particular Uses after-mentioned.

' 3^o. That, for the better Peopling and
 ' Planting of these Lands, the Person or
 ' Persons who shall be the first Purchasers
 ' thereof from the Crown, be obliged to
 ' dispose of them so as that, after the Ex-
 ' piration of two Years, to be computed
 ' from *Lady-Day* next to come, no Person

amended

E

' what-

‘ whatsoever shall be allowed to have or
 ‘ hold in his or her Possession more than
 ‘ 300, or 500 Acres thereof at the utmost.

‘ 4^o. That such of the present Tempora-
 ‘ ry Possessors of any Parcel or Parcels of
 ‘ these Lands as are able and willing to
 ‘ become Purchasers on the Terms to be
 ‘ agreed upon, shall have a Preference as
 ‘ to their present Possessions, not exceed-
 ‘ ing 300, or 500 Acres each, at the most.

‘ 5^o. That every Purchaser or Proprie-
 ‘ tor of any part of these Lands shall, in 18^o
 ‘ Months time, to be reckoned from *Lady-*
 ‘ *Day* next to come, be obliged to have
 ‘ and maintain at least one White Man-Ser-
 ‘ vant, able to bear Arms, for every 40 Acres
 ‘ thereof, and one White Man-Servant more,
 ‘ in 6 Months after; so as to have always,
 ‘ from that time forward, (that is in 2 Years
 ‘ time, to be reckoned from *Lady-Day* next)
 ‘ one White Man-Servant for every 20
 ‘ Acres of Land in his or her Possession.

‘ 6^o. That the Salt-Panns shall be in com-
 ‘ mon to all the Inhabitants of the Island.

‘ 7^o. That there be only an Ear of Corn
 ‘ reserved to be paid (when requir’d) as a
 ‘ yearly Quitt Rent and Acknowledgment
 ‘ to the Crown, out of every distinct Plan-
 ‘ tation of these Lands, and no more; be-
 ‘ side the Duty of $4\frac{1}{2}$ *per Cent.* after men-
 ‘ tioned.

‘ 8^o. That all these Lands be divided in-
 ‘ to distinct Parishes, to the end the In-
 ‘ habitants

‘ habitants may be the more regularly go-
 ‘ vern’d, upon all occasions, and duly re-
 ‘ presented in the Assembly, and conse-
 ‘ quently subjected to all the Laws made,
 ‘ or to be made, by the Governor, Council,
 ‘ and Assembly, in common with the pre-
 ‘ sent Inhabitants of that Island.

‘ All which Premisses being duly execu-
 ‘ ted and performed, and a competent Pro-
 ‘ vision being likewise made, as after pro-
 ‘ posed, for fortifying that part of the said
 ‘ Island, I dare confidently affirm, that, in
 ‘ two Years time at the farthest, the Pro-
 ‘ duce of these Lands cannot, in all human
 ‘ probability, fail to answer Yearly the seve-
 ‘ ral Ends and Uses after proposed: Yet,
 ‘ that I may not lead either my self or others
 ‘ into a Mistake, by raising too large a Su-
 ‘ perstructure, upon a very narrow and un-
 ‘ certain Foundation, I’ll suppose the Num-
 ‘ ber of Acres of good plantable Land, in
 ‘ the aforesaid part of the said Island, to be
 ‘ only 10000 Acres, and make my Calcu-
 ‘ lations upon that bottom; though the ve-
 ‘ ry least Estimate that ever was made there-
 ‘ of, even by the most designing Persons,
 ‘ who offer’d to purchase it by the Lump,
 ‘ proves the same to be much more.

‘ Experience makes it certain, That an
 ‘ Acre of the best part of these Lands well
 ‘ cultivated will produce from 3 to near
 ‘ about 5000 Weight of Sugar in one Year;
 ‘ that is, from three to five Hogsheads; and

though some other Acres of Plantable
 Land may not produce near so much;
 yet all the Planters and others of that
 Island with whom I happen'd to converse,
 on that Subject, seem to agree in this, That
 10000 Acres of the best part of the afore-
 said Lands will, by a moderate Compu-
 tation, reckoning one Acre with another,
 Produce at the Rate of 3000 Weight of
 Sugar *per Acre, communibus Annis*; which
 in the whole amounts to 30000000 Weight
 of Sugar *per Ann.* out of 10000 Acres only.

Thus 30000000 Weight of Sugar pay-
 ing the ordinary Custom of 3 s. 4 d. $\frac{2}{4}$ *per*
Cent. at the Port of London, will yield at
 least 50000 *l. Sterling* yearly to the Crown,
 besides the Duty of 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ *per Cent.* payable
 in the Island it self; which being com-
 monly compounded with the Collector
 there, at the Rate of 10 s. *per* Hoghead,
 or for every 1000 Weight, will produce
 15000 *l.* more, which being added to the
 former 50000 *l.* makes the Produce of
 10000 Acres to be 65000 *l. Sterling* year-
 ly to the Crown.

Then supposing the aforesaid part of
 the said Island to contain about 5000 A-
 cres more of Plantable Land (which I
 do not aver to be Fact, yet have reason
 to believe it may, and more too) though not
 quite so good as the former 10000 Acres;
 and supposing these 5000 Acres (when
 duly cultivated) to produce one with a-
 nother

' nother one third part less than the for-
 ' mer, (that is, at the Rate of 2000 Weight
 ' of Sugar *per* Acre) the Amount thereof
 ' will, by the former Rule of Proportion,
 ' yield 16666 *l.* 13 *s.* 4 *d.* Customs at the
 ' Port of *London*; besides the Duty of 4½
 ' *per Cent.* on the Island it self; which at
 ' 10 *s.* for every Hoghead of 1000 Weight
 ' as aforesaid, will produce 5000 *l.* more,
 ' which in all amounts to 86666 *l.* 13 *s.* 4 *d.*
 ' *per Ann.* to the Crown.

' Nor is it ridiculous to suppose (till the
 ' contrary appear, by an exact Survey as a-
 ' foresaid) that there may still possibly be e-
 ' ven more than 15000 Acres of Plantable
 ' Land in the late *French* part of the said
 ' Island; and if so, the Produce of the King's
 ' Revenue will encrease accordingly.

' But supposing the above Computations
 ' to be made at large, without an absolute
 ' certain Foundation, for such a Sum as
 ' 86666 *l.* 13 *s.* 4 *d.* *per Ann.* Yet I am per-
 ' swaded no Person who knows the Nature
 ' and present State of these Lands, will de-
 ' ny but that the Produce thereof to the
 ' Crown (if duely planted, and appropriated
 ' by Act of Parliament, may be readily ta-
 ' ken as a sufficient Security, in all Events,
 ' for the Payment of at least 50000 *l.* Year-
 ' ly, as the Interest (at 5 *per Cent.*) of a
 ' Million *Ster.* to be advanced for the Ser-
 ' vice of the Publick; either by way of Loan,
 ' or (which, with Submission, I take to be,
 ' by

‘ by much, the readiest way of the two) by
 ‘ a State Lottery, considering the Humour
 ‘ of the Time; for which End, I humbly
 ‘ propose,

‘ 1^o. That the Produce (including the
 ‘ Prime Cost) of the said late *French Lands*
 ‘ be appropriated, by Act of Parliament,
 ‘ for the Payment of 50000 *l.* yearly, for 32
 ‘ Years, from *Lady-day* next to come.

‘ 2^o. That the Collector of the Customs in
 ‘ *St. Christophers*, or rather a separate Of-
 ‘ ficer with a distinct Power, be appointed
 ‘ to Mark all the Hodgsheds, or other
 ‘ Casks, wherein the Produce of the afore-
 ‘ said Lands shall be Transported, with a Par-
 ‘ ticular Mark (to be agreed on, for that Pur-
 ‘ pose) so as the Produce of these Lands
 ‘ may be duely distinguished at the Port of
 ‘ *London*, from all other Plantations, Su-
 ‘ gars, &c. to the End that the Duties and
 ‘ Customs arising from the same may be
 ‘ exactly known, and brought to Account
 ‘ accordingly.

‘ 3^o. That Commissioners be appointed,
 ‘ by the same Act of Parliament, for the
 ‘ Management of the said Lottery, in the
 ‘ Ordinary way, with such Alterations, as
 ‘ the Wisdom of the Parliament shall think fit.

‘ 4^o. That these Commissioners do Issue
 ‘ out 100000 Tickets (Marked and Num-
 ‘ bered as usual) at 10 *l.* each, which will
 ‘ Amount to a Million *Ster.* exactly.

‘ 5^o. That

‘ 5^o. That the Counter-part of these
 ‘ 100000 Tickets be cut out, and Rolled,
 ‘ and put into one Box.

‘ 6^o. That there be 20000 Benefit Tick-
 ‘ ets, amounting to a Million *Sterling*,
 ‘ and 80000 Blanks, put together into ano-
 ‘ ther Box, which will make but four Blanks
 ‘ to every Prize, according to the following
 ‘ Scheme.

N ^o of Lotts	The Value of the several Benefit Tickets	The Total of the Benefit Tickets	The several An- nuities payable for 32 Years	The Total of the Annu- ities.
	<i>l.</i>	<i>l.</i>	<i>l.</i>	<i>l.</i>
1 of 20000		20000	at 1000	1000
2 of 10000 each		20000	at 500 each	1000
3 of 8000 each		24000	at 400 each	1200
4 of 6000 each		24000	at 300 each	1200
10 of 4000 each		40000	at 200 each	2000
20 of 2000 each		40000	at 100 each	2000
30 of 1200 each		36000	at 60 each	1800
40 of 1000 each		40000	at 50 each	2000
50 of 800 each		40000	at 40 each	2000
60 of 400 each		24000	at 20 each	1200
80 of 200 each		16000	at 10 each	800
100 of 180 each		18000	at 9 each	900
200 of 160 each		32000	at 8 each	1600
300 of 140 each		42000	at 7 each	2100
500 of 120 each		60000	at 6 each	3000
600 of 100 each		60000	at 5 each	3000
1000 of 80 each		80000	at 4 each	4000
2000 of 40 each		80000	at 2 each	4000
15000 of 20 each		300000	at 1 each	15000
Benefits 20000	First and	996000		49800
Blanks 80000	last Ticket 1000	4000	at 100 each	200
Total 100000		1000000		50000

‘ Thus the Million *Ster.* to be advanced,
 ‘ in Manner aforesaid, will be sunk in Con-
 ‘ sideration of the said Annuities of 50000 *l.*
 ‘ which

' which are likewise to cease and determine,
 ' at the Expiration of 32 Years: And then
 ' all the said Duties and Customs to return
 ' to the immediate Use of the Crown, as if
 ' no such Appropriation thereof had ever
 ' been made.

' But, supposing a Million may be thought
 ' too great a Sum to be raised on the Cre-
 ' dit of these Funds above-mentioned, I hum-
 ' bly apprehend 500000 *l.* may very readily
 ' be raised on the Credit thereof: In which
 ' case, the Scheme of the Lottery may be
 ' thus: That 100000 Tickets be issued at
 ' 5 *l.* each, That the 20000 Benefit Tickets
 ' be, each of them, exactly half the Value of
 ' those in the foregoing Scheme for the Mil-
 ' lion Lottery; and the Proportion will hold
 ' exactly the same, in all respects.

' Nay, the very Sale of all the Lands may
 ' be made, by way of Lottery also; affix-
 ' ing a certain Number of plantable Acres of
 ' Land, *cum Pertinentibus*, to every Bene-
 ' fit Ticket: And to avoid any manner of
 ' Dispute, in the Division of these Lands, it
 ' may be provided that those who have the
 ' highest Benefit Tickets shall be intitled to
 ' make gradually and successively their Ele-
 ' ctions of such Numbers of Acres as fall to
 ' their Shares respectively, wherever they
 ' or their Agents shall think fit; so as the
 ' same lye contiguous all together, in such
 ' manner as that the Acres belonging to one
 ' Person be no way intermixt with another's

Pro-

• Property. And the unplatable Lands may
 • be declared to be in common, or otherwise
 • divided among the Proprietors of the Plan-
 • table Lands, in Proportion to their several
 • and respective Properties.

• By all which it is Manifest that no State-
 • Lottery was ever yet made, in any part of
 • the World, upon a more equal, impartial
 • or advantagious footing, for the Adventu-
 • rers, than the above Written Scheme is:
 • For, not only are the said Annuities propor-
 • tioned to the Total of the Sums to be advan-
 • ced, on the Credit thereof, with all imagi-
 • nable Exactness; without reserving or de-
 • ducting one Penny, on the Account of
 • Trouble and Charges; but there is also, in
 • this Scheme, a much greater Number of high
 • Prizes, and a better Chance too, for any Ad-
 • venturer's having some Prize or other, than
 • ever was in any former State-Lottery, in
 • Proportion to the Capital thereof.

• And in regard it may very reasonably be
 • presumed that the Duties and Customs ari-
 • sing from the Produce of the said Lands,
 • (when Planted and Improved to the best
 • Advantage) may yield a considerable Ex-
 • crescence, over and above the aforesaid An-
 • nuities, it is further humbly proposed that,
 • for the Planter's Encouragement in particu-
 • lar, and the Security of the Island in general,
 • it may be especially provided, That some
 • competent part of the said Excrecence,
 • (That is of the $4\frac{1}{2}$ per Cent.) be applied
 • F to-

‘ towards the fortifying of that Part of the
 ‘ said Island.

‘ Against this Proposal it may possibly
 ‘ be objected,

Obj. 1. ‘ That the Customs and Duties
 ‘ on all the Plantation-Sugars are already
 ‘ appropriated, by several successive Acts
 ‘ of Parliament, for the respective Uses
 ‘ therein mentioned ; and therefore these
 ‘ late *French* Lands being now a Part of
 ‘ the *British* Plantations in *America*, the
 ‘ appropriating such Duties or Customs as
 ‘ may arise from the Produce thereof, to
 ‘ any new and separate Uses, would be a
 ‘ manifest Injury to the Persons who ad-
 ‘ vanced Money to the Government, on
 ‘ the Faith and Credit of the aforesaid Acts
 ‘ of Parliament.

Answe. ‘ To which it may be answered,
 ‘ 1^o. That these Lands being absolutely
 ‘ a new and supervenient Acquisition to
 ‘ the Crown of *Great-Britain*, long after
 ‘ the aforesaid Acts of the Parliament of
 ‘ *England* were made, it cannot reasonably
 ‘ be alledged that those who made the a-
 ‘ foresaid Acts of Parliament, could then
 ‘ have under their Consideration the ap-
 ‘ propriating to any Use whatsoever the
 ‘ Produce of these late *French* Lands, that
 ‘ were not then any Part of the Dominions
 ‘ of the Crown of *England* ; and therefore
 ‘ those who advanced any Money on the
 ‘ Credit of the aforesaid Acts of Parliament,
 ‘ cannot

cannot well think themselves aggrieved,
 by any new Appropriation of the Produce
 of these Lands: Nay, moreover, the late
 Reduction of their Interest to 5 and 4 *per*
Cent. must necessarily make all the Funds
 appropriated for their Payments reach
 further now, than they did before; so
 that they'll have no just Ground to com-
 plain of the abridging of their Funds, by
 Reason of the Appropriation hereby pro-
 posed: Nor is it scarce possible to raise
 Money for the Use of the Publick, on
 any Fund whatsoever, by which the Pro-
 perty of the People in general can be less
 (if so little) affected, as by the Appropria-
 tion now proposed. 2^o. It may be an-
 swered further, That the Acquisition of
 these Lands to the Crown of *Great-Bri-*
tain, being meerly by a Stipulation be-
 tween the two Crowns of *Great-Britain*
 and *France*, in an Article of the late Trea-
 ty of *Utrecht*; The King might, at any
 time, since his happy Accession to the
 Crown, have disposed of these Lands
 (and consequently of the accidental Pro-
 duce thereof) to any Person, and in such
 Manner, as his Majesty in his Royal Wis-
 dom should have thought fit; and may
 still (though I do not suppose he will)
 yield back these Lands again, by any sub-
 sequent Treaty or otherwise, unless the
 Wisdom of the Parliament think fit to
 interpose, in the mean time, so as the

' Crown may not dispose thereof, without
 ' Consent of Parliament ; and therefore it
 ' is humbly apprehended, that a special Act
 ' for appropriating the Produce of these
 ' Lands, to some certain Use or other,
 ' may in some Sense be thought necessary,
 ' for putting them on the same foot with
 ' the former *English* Part of the said Island
 ' of *St. Christopher's*, for the general Satis-
 ' faction of all Persons who now are, or
 ' hereafter may be, concerned therein.

' It may then be objected,

Obj. 2. ' That if it be in the Power of
 ' the Crown to dispose of these Lands at
 ' pleasure, or to yield them back again to
 ' *France*, by any subsequent Treaty, no
 ' Person or Persons whatsoever will readi-
 ' ly advance any considerable Sum to the
 ' Government, upon the Credit of the Pro-
 ' duce of Lands which stand upon so pre-
 ' carious a footing.

Ans. w. ' To which it may be answered,
 ' That an Act of Parliament appropriating
 ' the Duties and Customs arising from the
 ' Produce of these Lands, will, of Course,
 ' put it out of the Power of the Crown
 ' to dispose of either the one or the other,
 ' without Consent of Parliament : And in
 ' such Cases the Advancers of any Sum or
 ' Sums, on the Credit thereof, have Parlia-
 ' mentary Security for their Money.

Obj. 3. ' But still supposing there be an
 ' Act of Parliament for appropriating the
 ' Duties

‘ Duties and Customs arising from the Pro-
 ‘ duce of these Lands, in the Manner above
 ‘ proposed : Yet these Lands not being al-
 ‘ ready compleatly settled and planted, no
 ‘ certain Judgment can be made of what
 ‘ the Produce thereof may amount to :
 ‘ And therefore People will be loath to
 ‘ adventure their Money on such an uncer-
 ‘ tain Fund.

Ans. ‘ To which it is answered, That
 ‘ according to the aforesaid Proposal, the
 ‘ said Lands are to be disposed of, in such
 ‘ Manner as (morally speaking) cannot well
 ‘ fail of yielding a Sum adequate to what is
 ‘ proposed to be advanced on the Credit
 ‘ thereof; and even in case the same should
 ‘ fail of answering fully the Ends above
 ‘ proposed, yet still the Adventurers will
 ‘ have Parliamentary Security to make
 ‘ good Deficiencies, as aforesaid.

Obj. 4. ‘ Then supposing it may be said
 ‘ or pretended, after all, That the Govern-
 ‘ ment has no immediate pressing Occasion
 ‘ for the aforesaid Million, and therefore it
 ‘ may perhaps be as adviseable for the Go-
 ‘ vernment to let the said Revenue come
 ‘ in of Course, without mortgaging the
 ‘ same unnecessarily, &c.

‘ Touching which it ought to be confi-
 ‘ der’d, That tho’ the Government may
 ‘ not at present be under any seeming Necessi-
 ‘ tity of raising so great a Sum, by any such
 ‘ Means; yet unforeseen Accidents may
 ‘ possibly

' possibly make them have Occasion for such
 ' a Sum, when they cannot so well raise it
 ' on the same Fund, as at this time : For,
 ' tho' it be true that the publick Debts of
 ' the Nation may be lessened, by letting
 ' the Customs and Duties arising from the
 ' Produce of these Lands come in of Course
 ' with the Customs of all the other Planta-
 ' tion-Sugars in general ; yet, if after the
 ' Sale and compleat Settlement of these
 ' Lands, the Revenue arising from the
 ' Produce thereof be once suffered to run
 ' promiscuously and undistinguished in that
 ' Channel, the Government can never so
 ' well after pretend to meddle therewith,
 ' until all the Debts already charged on that
 ' Branch of the Revenue be fully cleared.
 ' *All which is most humbly submitted.*

Some few Days after I had delivered this
 Proposal and Scheme to my Friend, he told
 me, the aforesaid Noble Lord, to whom he
 gave it, was exceeding well pleas'd with it,
 as well as with the two foregoing Papers,
 on the same Subject ; and so very desirous
 to know and speak with the Author, that
 (without running the Hazard of incurring
 his Lordship's Displeasure) he could not
 well conceal my Name any longer ; and
 then, after my Friend had run out some
 Divisions on his Lordship's extraordinary
 good Qualities, particularly his Justice, Ge-
 nerosity, and strict Honour, I was, by his
 own

own Appointment, introduced to the Honour of kissing his Lordship's Hand, at a set Hour, after his publick Business for the Day was over, and had then above two Hours Conference with him; his Lordship sent for me several times after, to discourse with him on the same Subject; on all which Occasions, I must confess, he treated me with much more Affability, Courtesy and good Manners, than I could well have expected from many Persons of a much more inferior Character and Quality.

He seemed very inclinable to have, *ante omnia*, two or three Commissioners to be sent, duly authorized, from hence to St. Christopher's, in order to bring an exact and particular State of these *French* Lands, in as full and circumstantiated a Manner as possible, with respect to the Numbers and Qualities of Acres, both of the plantable and unplatable Part thereof; what Part, and how much thereof, was disposed of, by temporary Grants from the respective Governors, how much was actually planted, and who were the Grantees thereof, &c. pursuant to those Grants, together with the said Commissioners joint Opinion upon the Whole, after their Return from thence.

But so it happen'd, after his Lordship had (as I was informed) conferr'd with some others of the Ministry, touching the Premises, he thought fit to proceed no further therein; even notwithstanding some other

other Proposals were (as I was likewise informed) given in, Sealed, to the Lords Commissioners for Trade and Plantations, pursuant to the Advertisements aforesaid: But for what reason his Lordship (all of a sudden) dropp'd his Enquiries touching the then State and Value of these Lands, I cannot pretend to inform you; and much less can I take upon me to tell you what Instructions have been given, either since or before, to the several successive Governours of the *Leeward-Caribbe-Islands*, touching those Lands in particular, ever since the Cession thereof by *France* as aforesaid.

However, if this long Letter happen to gratify your Curiosity, in the least, by giving you any light into that which you seemed so desirous to have some Account of, when I gave you an occasional hint thereof, in our last transient Conversation, it will (next to the Pleasure of Discharging part of that Duty I owe the Publick) be the greatest Satisfaction I propose thereby to my self, as being,

S I R,

Your most humble Servant,

London,
Nov. 8. 1721.



R. M.

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